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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/618,093

07/11/2003

John Boyle

WEAT/0403

3821

7590 05/16/2007
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EXAMINER

BEACH, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3671

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/16/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,093

Applicant(s)

BOYLE, JOHN

Examiner

Thomas A. Beach

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 45-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 45-50 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 5-7, 10, 11 and 13-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 8, 9, 12 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Invention I (claim 1-19) in the reply filed on 02/26/07 is acknowledged.
2. Newly submitted claims 45-50 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: submitted claims 45-50 involved dislodging equipment, in general, stuck in the pipeline and analyzing fluid flow to determine build-up.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 45-50 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 5-7, 10, 11 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bath et al 6,200,068. Bath shows method of intervening in a pipeline,

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having providing a pipeline P for transporting fluid flow from an offshore well to a location (not shown; however inherent to this apparatus that the pipeline connects to a well and to another location); diverting the fluid flow to a storage site 26; and intervening in the pipeline (fig 1-8).

As concern claim 2, Bath shows the well is underbalanced.

As concern claim 4, Bath shows diverting the fluid flow to the storage site 26 comprises inserting a tap into the pipeline and flowing the fluid flow through the tap to the storage site (fig 7).

As concern claim 5, Bath shows the tap is inserted into the pipeline between the well and the storage site (fig 7).

As concern claim 6, Bath shows intervening in the pipeline comprises inserting a tap into the pipeline downstream from the diversion of fluid flow to the storage site.

As concern claim 7, Bath shows coiled tubing 60 (fig 1) is lowered from the storage site and inserted into the tap for intervening in the pipeline.

As concern claim 10, Bath shows intervening in the pipeline occurs downstream with respect to initial fluid flow through the pipeline to the location from the diverting of the fluid flow to the storage site.

As concern claim 11, Bath shows intervening in the pipeline comprises removing blockage of the fluid flow within the pipeline.

As concern claim 13, Bath shows removing blockage comprises drilling into the pipeline and physically removing the blockage (fig 1).

As concern claim 14-17, Bath shows a process capable of intervening for removing a pig stuck in the pipeline or descaling or removing paraffin from within the pipeline or damage to the pipeline.

As concern claim 18, Bath shows the diverting and the intervening are accomplished from the same location.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3, 8, 9, 12 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Beach whose telephone number is 571.272.6988. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached on 571.272.6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas A. Beach

May 14, 2007

THOMAS A. BEACH
Primary Examiner
Group 3600